

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /108 W

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R 071414Z FEB 74

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5267

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 627

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: AHARAM ATMOSPHERICS

1. ADDRESSEES WILL HAVE SEEN WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF "OFFICIAL COMMENTARY" FEB 5 ON DISMISSAL OF HEYKAL. SOURCE "CLOSE TO GOVERNMENT" WHO BRIEFED BUREAU CHIEFS OF AP, UPI, AFP, REUTER, AND TASS (EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS WERE NOT INVITED OR INFORMED OF "PRESS CONFERENCE") WAS GOE SPOKESMAN ANIS, WHO READ PREPARED STATEMENT ANNOUNCING SADAT DECISION OUST HEYKAL FROM AHARAM WAS CAUSED CHIEFLY BY EVOLUTION OF PAPER INTO INDEPENDENT PRESSURE GROUP.

2. EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS HAVE REMARKED TO USING THAT AHARAM STAFFERS ARE ACUTELY AWARE THAT WHOLESALE RESIGNATIONS FROM THE PAPER WILL GIVE SUBSTANCE TO ANIS' CHARGES THAT THERE IS INDEED A COHERENT PRESSURE GROUP GIVING TOP LOYALTY TO HEYKAL. IN FACT, USINT IS AWARE OF ONLY ONE RESIGNATION SINCE OUSTER ANNOUNCEMENT. HATEM SADIQ, NASSER'S SON-IN-LAW, HAS REPORTEDLY INFORMED ALI AMIN HE UNABLE TO CONTINUE ON STAFF. ALI HAMDI AL-GAMMAL, KNOWN TO BE ANNOYED AT AMIN'S TAKING OVER HIS POST AS MANAGING EDITOR, WILL APPARENTLY STAY ON.

3. ANIS' COMMENT TO FIVE WIRE SERVICE CHIEFS THAT RECENT
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MEASURES ARE "WIHOUT DOUBT TEMPORARY" PROVIDES MORE

EVIDENCE THAT DEPUTY PM HATEM IS NOT EXPECTED TO CONTINUE LONG AS CHAIRMAN OF AHRAM. IN THE MEANTIME, HE HAS BEEN SITTING IN HEYKAL'S CHAIR AND HAS LECTURED EDITORIAL STAFF ON GOE POLICY. A RELIABLE SOURCE HAS TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT ALI AMIN HAS EMPHASIZED TO HIS STAFF THAT HE IS DETERMINED ALL SHADES OF OPINION SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED IN AHRAM OPINION COLUMNS.

4. ALMOST UNANIMOUS VIEW HERE IS THAT HEYKAL OUSTER WAS BOLT FROM THE BLUE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE INTENDS REMAIN SILENT ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS PRESS ADVISOR UNTIL HE HAS PRIVATE INTERVIEW WITH SADAT. HE REPROATEDLY REFUSED TO SEE PROMINENT LEBANESE JOURNALIST SAID FRAYHA, WHO IS SAID TO HAVE PHONED HIM AFTER FRAYHA'S LONG INTERVIEW WITH SADAT.
EILTS

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